

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 INR-10 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2466

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BG, UR

SUBJECT: MUJIB GOES TO MOSCOW FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

1. PRIME MINISTER MUJIBUR RAHMAN LEFT DACCA TODAY VIA A SPECIAL SOVIET PLANE FOR MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT IN MOSCOW. SINCE MARCH 14, MUJIB HAS BEEN UNDER THE CARE OF A BENGALEE MEDICAL TEAM FOR AN UNSPECIFIED ILLNESS. HE HAS NOT BEEN HOSPITALIZED. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY, MUJIB ACCEPTED THE OFFER OF THE USSR BECAUSE HIS BENGALEE DOCTORS ADVISED THAT FACILITIES WERE UNAVAILABLE IN BANGLADESH FOR THE FURTHER DIAGNOSTIC TEST AND TREATMENT REQUIRED. SOVIET MEDICAL EXPERTS PROF. PERELMAN MICHAIL AND PROF. SMACIN WSEVOLD (SIC) WHO ARRIVED ABOARD THE SOVIET PLANE YESTERDAY CONCURRED WITH MUJIB'S PHYSICIAN DR. NURUL ISLAM THAT TREATMENT IN MOSCOW WAS NECESSARY. MUJIB ACCOMPANIED BY DR. ISLAM AND BEGUM MUJIB.

2. AS A RESULT OF MUJIB'S ILLNESS, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO INDIA, SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 28, HAS BEEN POSTPONED. THE TRIP WILL BE RESCHEDULED

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AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY FOLLOWING MUJIB'S

RECOVERY.

3. WE HAVE NO AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION ON THE NATURE

OF MUJIB'S ILLNESS. INITIALLY, MUJIB WAS BELIEVED TO BE SUFFERING FROM GENERAL FATIGUE; HE HAD CANCELLED SOME APPOINTMENTS FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM LAHORE IN LATE FEBRUARY. THERE IS WIDE SPECULATION CONCERNING HIS ILLNESS; ONE WELL-PLACED SOURCE SAYS IT IS BRONCHIAL CONDITION. ALTHOUGH CONFINED TO BED AT HIS PRIVATE RESIDENCE, MUJIB WAS RECEIVING VISITORS THE PAST WEEK; EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY AND PHOTOGRAPHS DEPICTED HIS RECEPTION OF WELL WISHERS ON HIS 54TH BIRTHDAY.

MARCH 17.

NEWBERRY

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